THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The charge sheet in the Bofors case was filed on 22nd October, 1999. One of the accused, Shri S.K. Bhatnagar died on 4.8.2001 and another one, Shri W.N. Chadha, died on 24.10.2001. Shri Rajiv Gandhi's name was mentioned in column 2 of the charge sheet as he was not sent up for trial, having expired already.

The case is sub-judice.

Problem of insurgency in North-East

* 54. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times on 4th October. 2001. captioned "Bangladesh Poll Results Worry Insurgency-Ridden North-East".

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problem of insurgency in the North-East as highlighted in the newspaper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes. Sir

(b) and (d) According to available information, there are camps in some of our neighbouring countries including Bangladesh which arc being used by many militant groups active in the North-East as safe havens and sanctuaries and for training purposes. The Government of India has taken up the matter regarding such camps with the Government of Bangladesh at varjous fora and on several occasions. The Goverrfment of Bangladesh has assured that they would not allow undersirable elements to use their territory for activities prejudicial to the interests of India.

The Government has also taken various measures to deal

with the cross border terrorism and the militancy in the North-Eastern States. These include, *inter-alia,* raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border out posts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments, coordinated action by Army, Paramilitary forces and State Police for counter militancy operations, declaration of major militant groups as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967; declaration of militancy affected States as "disturbed area" under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958; reimbursement of security related expenditure to the State Governments and modernisation/ upgradation of the police in the North-Eastern States. The progress of these measures is reviewed regularly at various levels.

Demand for creation of New States

* 55. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHANRAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demands being raised for the creation of five new States, namely Telengana, Vidarbha, Harit Pradesh, Bundelkhand and Mithila;

(b) if so, whether Government have received representations from various Members of Parliament/Organisations in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Representations have been reeived from Members of